THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government is committed towards the development of agriculture in all parts of the country including the North Eastern Region (NER). The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, as part of the mandatory requirement of earmarking 10% of its budgetary allocation of Rs. 4179.32 crore, had earmarked Rs. 418 crore for the NER in 2005-06. The major allocation were under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (Rs. 130 crore) and macro management of Agriculture Scheme (Rs. 130.53 crore). In addition, Rs. 30 crore was allocated under the State Plan scheme of Watershed Development in Shifting Cultivation Areas in North Eastern States.

(c) and (d) The Central Government through its own plan schemes along with various State Plan schemes is engaged in agricultural development of the backward regions of the country including Orissa, Bihar, Chhattisgarh. The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana with its three components, namely, (i) Special Plan for Bihar; (ii) Special Plan for the KBK Districts of Orissa; and (iii) Backward Districts Initiative, is the major programme for development of backward regions of the country.

Assurances/programmes on Agriculture in N.C.M.P.

3045. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various assurances/programmes mentioned in the National Common Minimum Programme (N.C.M.P.) of Government pertaining to agriculture;

(b) the progress made in the implementation of those programmes; and

(c) the action proposed to have effective implementation of those assurances/programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The following areas in the agriculture sector have been identified for focused and priority attention under National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP):

(i) Farmers will be given greater say in the organization that supply inputs to them.

(ii) The UPA Government will bring forward a Constitutional Amendment to ensure the democratic, autonomous and professional functioning of cooperatives.

(iii) Controls that depress the incomes of farmers will be systematically removed.

(iv) Crop insurance schemes to be made more effective.

(v) The UPA Government will introduce a special programme for dryland farming in the arid and semi-arid regions of the country.

(vi) The UPA Government will ensure that adequate protection is provided to all farmers from imports, particularly when international prices fall sharply.

(vii) The UPA Government will ensure that public investment in rural infrastructure is stepped up in a significant manner at the very earliest. The UPA will pay special attention to augmenting and modernizing rural infrastructure consisting of irrigation; cold-chain; and marketing outlets.

(viii) The UPA Government will ensure that public investment in agricultural research and extension is stepped up in a significant manner at the very earliest.

(ix) The UPA Government will take steps to ensure that dues to all farmers including sugarcane farmers will be cleared at the earliest.

(b) and (c) These programmes are on-going nature and their progress is regularly monitored for effective implementation.

MSP for coarse grains

†3046. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to fix the support price of coarse

†Original notice of th_ question was received inHindi